

Worksession

Agenda Item #	6
Meeting Date	September 17, 2007
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, Community and Government Liaison
Approved By	Wayne Hobbs, Deputy City Manager

Discussion Item	Discussion of Proposed State Legislation
Background	<p>Each year, the City Council identifies legislation it would like to promote or support in the upcoming Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly. Items that have been suggested are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expanding/preserving revenue for municipalities. This topic is one of two priorities recommended by the MML Legislative Committee (and proposed by Takoma Park). This priority deals with issues of revenue flexibility and municipal tax duplication and is particularly important due to the current budget discussions. 2. Requiring approval of a majority of tenant households before an apartment building may be converted to a condominium. This has been proposed before by Takoma Park and almost passed by the Montgomery Delegation two years ago as a local bill. This year, tenants from across the County have been actively urging the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County to support this legislation. A petition for the legislation is circulating; as of Friday morning, petitions with 87 names have been submitted to Takoma Park. 3. Allowing municipal aggregation of electricity. This bill has been proposed for the last several years. As the Legislature considers greater regulation of electricity, there may be an opportunity to allow municipalities the authority to function as aggregators on behalf of the residential customers in their communities. <p>The Legislative Session begins in early January and lasts through early April. Local legislation that only affects Montgomery or Prince George's County is considered through the fall, with a bill submission deadline of Wednesday, September 19. This year, there may be a Special Session in advance of the January opening date, to consider approaches to addressing Maryland's "structural deficit."</p> <p>Bond bill requests for projects such as the Community Center gymnasium addition may be submitted in late January or early February, allowing us time to see the results of the resident survey now in progress before deciding on any requests.</p>
Policy	The City Council pursues legislation in the best interest of the City of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	n/a
Attachments	None
Recommendation	Identify priorities for State legislation. Identify any local legislation that should be requested by our representatives by Wednesday's deadline.
Special	

Consideration	
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